# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2275
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2006
USAID COLLABORATION WITH NIAM
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether a team of experts from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) recently visited/proposes to visit India to impart training for strengthening of agricultural marketing system as part of a collaboration with the National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM);

(b) if so, whether NIAM has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the USAID for technical assistance in the field;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the benefits accrued therefrom?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): The collaboration and cooperation between Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM), Jaipur and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to access relevant United States Government Agencies, Universities and related institutions in order to provide technical assistance to NIAM for capacity building and manpower development in training, research, consultancy and education.

Subjects for collaboration may include developing new and modifying existing agricultural commodity grades and standards, identifying and accessing United States training modules and resources available for grade and standards, including inspection and other areas such as certification/accreditation, warehousing, cold storage, cold chain management and food safety, and enhancing the existing Marketing News Information System. Collaboration may lead to identification and pursuit of institutional linkages such as faculty exchanges, library support, documentary material developments support and short term training, video conferencing, support and collaboration from the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (USDA/CSREES), National Agricultural Statistic Services (USDA/NASS) and other relevant agencies.

Priority areas for collaboration and assistance may include but are not limited to grades and standards development, market information systems and related Information Technology application development, certification/accreditation, systems for enhancing farmers` participation in commodity future markets; price forecasting techniques; and enhancing competitiveness for Indian Agricultural Commodities. NIAM, under the supervision of the Development of Agriculture and Co-operation and USAID for the United States Government intend to collaborate and cooperate under this agreement through the Joint Working Group. Each Party to this agreement will bear its own expenses for activities on which the Parties collaborate.

The duration of this agreement is for three years from the date of signature, subject to extension or early termination by the Parties upon 90 days written notice to the other Party.

(d): The collaboration would enable capacity building of NIAM in the marketing related issues such as grades and standards, certification and accreditation and market news information system.